

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6141

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MPOL, PO, NATO

SUBJECT: EANES PLEDGES ACTIVE PORTUGUESE NATO ROLE

REF: USNMR SHAPE MSG DTG 130830Z JAN 76 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DURING SHAPE VISIT, PORTUGUESE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF
RAMALHO EANES PLEDGED PORTUGAL'S "REAL, NOT JUST VERBAL" RETURN
TO NATO. END SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED FEB 26 THAT PORTUGUESE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF
ANTONIO DE RAMALHO EANES, CURRENTLY VISITING SHAPE AND NATO UNITS
IN NORTHERN EUROPE, MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS

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IN A SPEECH FEB 24:

-- AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS OF "COMPLEX" POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT,
PORTUGAL NOW BELIEVES IT CAN BEST PURSUE ITS EFFORTS TO
ESTABLISH DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT;

-- PORTUGAL'S "NATURAL AND IMPERATIVE RETURN TO EUROPE, AND
THUS TO NATO," WILL BE "REAL, NOT JUST VERBAL";

-- PORTUGAL WILL ATTEMPT TO FULFILL "WITH LOYALTY AND SINCERITY"
ITS NATO MISSION;

-- PORTUGAL SEEKS THE UNDERSTANDING AND "APPROPRIATE AND ADEQUATE
HELP" OF ITS ALLIES IN DOING SO.

2. COMMENT: AZEVEDO HAS BEEN CONSISTENT AND FORTHRIGHT IN HIS
SUPPORT OF NATO, BUT THIS PUBLIC EXPRESSION COMING FROM THE ARMY
CHIEF OF STAFF ON A VISIT TO NATO CARRIES A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.
IT MEANS THAT THE PROFESSIONALS NOW FEEL CONFIDENT ENOUGH OF THEIR
CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY TO BEGIN TO DEAL WITH SOME OF THE SENSITIVE
POLITICAL MILITARY PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN A REORIENTATION OF THE ARMY
FROM ITS "REVOLUTIONARY PHASE" TO A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO.
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